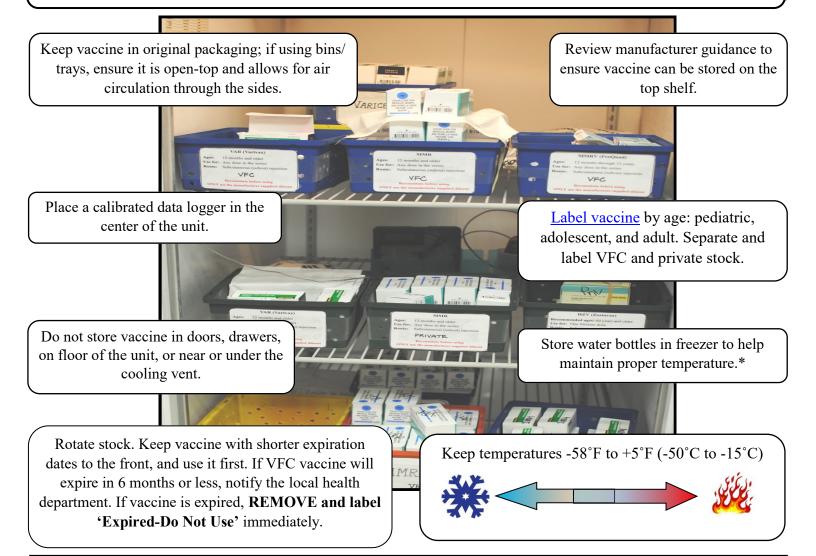
Storing Vaccines in a Standard Freezer



Key Points for Vaccine Storage:

- Stand-alone purpose-built/pharmaceutical grade freezer units are recommended.
- These units can be compact, under-the-counter style or large.
- If using a household-grade combination refrigerator/freezer unit, only use refrigerator section for storing vaccines.
- Dormitory style units can **NEVER** be used to store vaccine under any circumstances!
- If using a manual defrost unit follow the manufacturer's guidance on defrosting the unit. While defrosting, store vaccine according to vaccine storage and handling guidelines.
- Temperatures below –58°F are too cold; temperatures above +5°F are too warm. If temperature is out of range, notify the primary or backup vaccine coordinator **immediately.** Label the vaccine "Do Not Use", store according to manufacturer guidelines, and contact the vaccine manufacturer(s) for guidance. For Vaccines for Children (VFC) vaccine, contact the local health department.
- Store vaccines in the center of the unit, with 2 to 3 inches of space from the wall, ceiling, floor, and door.
- Only store vaccines in a vaccine storage unit—no food or beverages!
- **Must** store MMRV, and Varicella in the freezer. If not reconstituted, MMR-II (Merck) vaccine may be stored in either the freezer or refrigerator. MMR-Priorix (GSK) should only be stored in the refrigerator.
- *Add water bottles in places where vaccine should not be stored to help maintain temperatures. Water bottles are not recommended for use with certain pharmaceutical-grade and purpose-built units. Follow the manufacturer's guidance for these units.

CDC-Vaccine Storage and Handling Toolkit